USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Indiana Crop & Weather Report

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 9

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Farmers across the state saw variable amounts of rainfall with some northern areas receiving only trace amounts while some central and southern areas experienced flash flooding, according to the Indiana Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Diverse crop conditions ranging from drought stress in several northern counties to severe flooding in some central and southern counties were experienced during the week. Irrigation systems have been running continuously in northern areas. Heavy rain fell in some central and southern areas leaving many low lying crop fields under water. Farmers are concerned by what crop conditions will be as the flood waters recede.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 4.6 **days suitable for field work** during the week. Eighty-nine percent of the **corn** crop has **silked** compared with 92 percent last year and 97 percent for the 5-year average. Twenty-two percent of the corn is in **dough** compared to 22 percent last year and 51 percent for the 5-year average. Corn **condition** is rated 64 percent good to excellent compared with 71 percent last year at this time. Seventy-seven percent of the **soybean** acreage is **blooming** compared with 84 percent last year and 92 percent for the 5-year average. Thirty-seven percent of the soybean acreage is **setting pods** compared to 41 percent last year and 64 percent for the 5-year average. Soybean **condition** is rated 63 percent good to excellent compared with 66 percent last year at this time.

The **second cutting** of **Alfalfa hay** is 92 percent complete compared with 94 percent last year and 98 percent for the 5-year average.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition declined slightly and is rated 65 percent good to excellent compared with 59 percent last year at this time. Livestock remain in mostly good condition with only minor stress from the warmer temperatures that arrived late in the week.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg.
	Percent			
Corn Silked	89	76	92	97
Corn in Dough	22	9	22	51
Soybeans Blooming	77	67	84	92
Soybeans Setting Pods	37	19	41	64
Alfalfa – 2nd Cutting	92	89	94	98

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-lent
			Percent		
Corn	2	8	26	52	12
Soybean	2	9	26	53	10
Pasture	1	7	27	46	19

SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
		Percent	
Topsoil			
Very Short	4	2	3
Short	21	18	19
Adequate	50	63	73
Surplus	25	17	5
Subsoil			
Very Short	3	2	3
Short	22	22	15
Adequate	57	62	76
Surplus	18	14	6
Days Suitable	4.6	4.7	5.3

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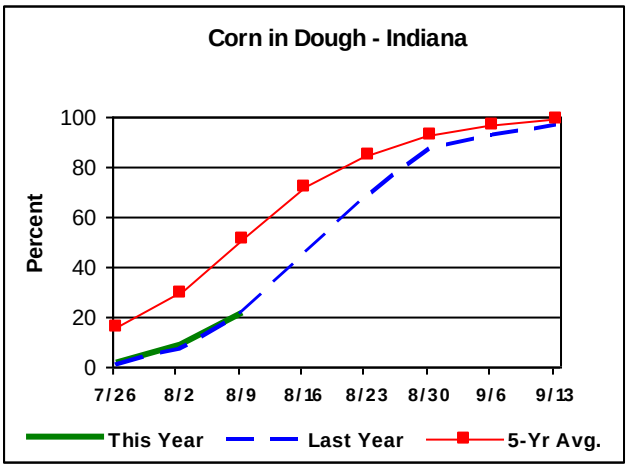
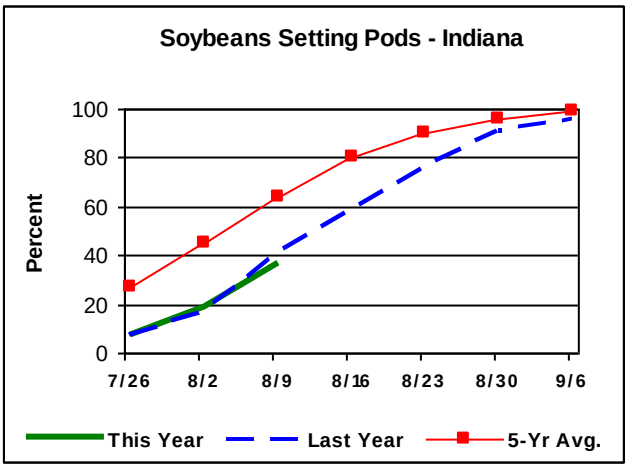
http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Indiana/





Other Agricultural Comments And News

A Tale of Three Cropping Seasons

- Published 3 Aug 2009
URL: http://www.kingcorn.org/news/articles.09/CropProgress-0803.html

The summer of 2009 in Indiana will likely go down on record as one of the coolest cropping seasons in recent history. July went into the record books as the second coolest July since 1871 (WISH-TV, 1 Aug 2009). Coupled with the significant delay in planting progress, the current slow pace of crop development has generated a lot of coffeeshop talk about what impact there will be on corn grain yield and whether there is a significant risk of some of the crop not maturing safely before a killing fall frost.

History is often not a reliable predictor of the future, but looking at similar instances of slow crop progress in the past can sometimes offer a glimpse of the future possibilities. There are three such similar instances of slow crop progress in Indiana beginning with 1992.

Silking progress that year, again in 2002, and again in 2008 occurred at similar late calendar periods (Fig. 1, which can be viewed at: www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/corn/news/articles.09/CropProgress-0803.html). Compared to the current 5-year average pace, silking progress in all three of those cropping seasons was about two weeks behind average. As the crop moved through the remainder of the grain filling period, crop progress all three years continued to lag behind the 5-year average; though the 2002 season matured slightly ahead of the 1992 and 2008 seasons (Fig. 2, which can be viewed at: www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/corn/news/articles.09/CropProgress-0803.html). Crop maturity for those three years occurred one to two weeks behind average.

So, what is the point of all this? Simply put, the current 2009 silking progress for corn in Indiana is nearly identical with that exhibited by the 1992, 2002, and 2008 crops (Fig. 1). If this calendar lag continues, the 2009 corn crop will also likely mature at least two weeks behind the 5-year average (Fig. 2). Maybe the eventual grain yields recorded for those years can provide us with a hint of the future to come?

Or, maybe not.

The statewide average corn grain yield in 1992 for Indiana was 16.4% above the historical trend; the largest positive departure from trend since 1942. Conversely, the statewide average corn grain yield in 2002 for Indiana was 15.3% below the historical trend; the largest negative departure from trend since the drought of 1991. Finally, statewide average corn grain yield for Indiana last year (2008) was slightly (4.8%) above the historical trend yield.

So, what are we to make of three cropping seasons whose crop progress was so similarly delayed, yet which eventually ended with statewide grain yields so dramatically different? As I often like to remind folks, there are a gozillion factors that influence grain yield in corn. Ultimately, grain yield represents the complete integration of effects from every yield influencing factor that occurs throughout a particular cropping season. Delayed crop progress is but one of many such yield influencing factors.

The slow cropping season of 1992 was indeed a cool summer; best remembered by those of us "long in the tooth" for the unusually late killing freezes of June 21 and 22 that devastated crops throughout northern and westcentral Indiana. The remainder of the summer was also cool with August ending up as the 5th coolest August since 1900. Rainfall was not lacking and, if anything, was a bit excessive throughout much of the summer. AND YET.... the corn crop responded with yields that far exceeded anyone's imagination. Lack of heat and drought stress on a late crop was a real advantage that year.

By contrast, the 2002 crop got off to a slow start with very delayed planting statewide. However, rather than a

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Weather Information Table

Week Ending Sunday, August 9, 2009

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation April 1, 2009 thru August 9, 2009				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4in Soil	Precipitation			GDD Base 50°F	
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Chalmers_5W	89	53	69	-5	0.14	3		16.37	+0.00	54	1780	-310
Francesville	88	51	69	-3	0.03	1		17.35	+1.00	49	1730	-194
Valparaiso_AP_I	90	54	71	-2	0.17	2		13.90	-3.22	50	1816	-77
Wanatah	90	49	69	-3	0.23	2	76	15.80	-0.88	53	1644	-166
Winamac	88	54	70	-2	0.67	4		13.70	-2.65	53	1780	-144
North Central(2)												
Plymouth	87	54	70	-3	0.34	2		15.37	-1.59	63	1692	-317
South_Bend	88	54	72	-1	0.29	2		16.74	+0.74	49	1815	-64
Young_America	89	52	71	-2	0.02	1		17.10	+1.32	42	1839	-131
Northeast (3)												
Fort_Wayne	87	53	70	-3	0.07	2		16.16	+1.31	53	1903	-64
Kendallville	85	58	71	+0	0.13	3		15.52	-0.02	59	1919	+71
West Central(4)												
Greencastle	87	53	68	-7	0.57	2		26.98	+8.25	57	1782	-439
Perrysville	90	55	71	-3	1.25	3	72	24.70	+6.89	56	2043	-37
Spencer_Ag	88	55	70	-4	1.10	3		28.38	+9.22	59	1980	-111
Terre_Haute_AFB	89	56	73	-2	0.41	1		20.38	+2.38	50	2226	+10
W_Lafayette_6NW	88	53	70	-3	0.28	2	78	20.70	+4.27	55	1939	-28
Central (5)												
Eagle_Creek_AP	86	59	73	-3	3.78	3		25.71	+8.88	56	2173	-23
Greenfield	87	56	69	-6	3.34	2		27.94	+9.39	57	1926	-174
Indianapolis_AP	88	59	74	-2	3.81	1		29.14	+12.31	54	2239	+43
Indianapolis_SE	86	57	70	-5	3.90	1		30.84	+13.31	57	1930	-248
Tipton_Ag	87	54	69	-3	0.85	2	80	22.36	+5.69	58	1824	-86
East Central(6)												
Farmland	88	50	68	-5	0.04	1	74	15.70	-0.63	53	1841	-19
New_Castle	83	54	67	-6	1.82	2		20.14	+2.20	54	1772	-130
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	91	61	77	-1	0.22	1		22.57	+5.27	52	2596	+32
Freelandville	89	60	73	-3	0.38	1		27.77	+9.80	52	2246	-45
Shoals_8S	88	54	70	-6	1.08	1		28.50	+9.01	52	2035	-173
Stendal	89	62	75	-2	0.23	1		29.61	+10.42	51	2542	+135
Vincennes_5NE	92	60	74	-2	0.84	2	77	27.40	+9.43	57	2339	+48
South Central(8)												
Leavenworth	88	58	72	-3	1.21	3		27.23	+7.43	73	2243	+42
Oolitic	87	55	70	-5	1.29	2	71	26.28	+7.70	61	2038	-69
Tell_City	90	62	74	-4	0.40	1		23.98	+4.42	52	2424	-16
Southeast (9)												
Brookville	87	48	69	-5	3.40	4		21.70	+3.73	54	2100	+106
Greensburg	88	58	71	-2	4.52	2		28.74	+10.72	58	2200	+146
Seymour	87	55	70	-4	4.39	3		26.95	+8.98	52	2018	-99

DFN = Departure From Normal.
GDD = Growing Degree Days.
Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

For more weather information, visit www.awis.com
or call 1-888-798-9955.

cool summer, the 2002 cropping season was characterized by very hot and dry conditions from late June through at least mid-August. The warm temperatures helped the crop make up for some of the delayed planting, but still matured about one week behind the 5-year average. One of the key yield influencing factors in 2002 was the combination of delayed crop development (especially silking and early grain fill) and hot, dry stressful conditions in late July and early August. Knock on wood, but Indiana corn fields have escaped that damaging combination in 2009 to date.

The 2008 crop was similarly delayed in its progress throughout the year but experienced more of a "mixed bag" of weather, ranging from enough moisture and moderate temperatures to too little moisture and hot temperatures. The "mixed bag" of weather conditions played a role in that late-developing crop achieving slightly above average yields (4.8% above trend).

Bottom Line

The current corn crop is moving out of the important pollination period and into the equally important grain filling phase. It is true that this year's late corn planting and uneven stand establishment are not favorable for optimum yields, but it is also true that most of the state's crop has, so far, escaped serious stress from drought, heat, disease, and insects.

Moderate temperatures and adequate moisture during the grain fill period are favorable for kernel set success and kernel weight development. For what it is worth, the percentage of the 2009 Indiana corn crop rated by USDA-NASS as good to excellent has consistently been in the low 60's since early June (only slightly below those of the 2008 crop). Based purely on the historical relationship between July crop condition ratings and statewide grain yield, such ratings would predict trend line yield (aka average yield) for Indiana's corn crop this year.

The remainder of this season will greatly determine eventual yields of this year's corn crop. Two major hurdles remain for this year's crop. One is to avoid serious heat/drought stress for the remainder of August and the early part of September. The other is to avoid an early killing fall frost in late-planted fields not yet physiologically mature (kernel black layer), but it is too early to predict the probability of that risk.

As the old saying goes...."The opera ain't over until the fat lady sings."

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